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SOUTHERN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE
YAZOO AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEYS.

April 14/99

Missionary Steamer, "Morning Star," J. E. White, Master and Chaplain.

Yazoo City, Mississippi, April 6, 1899.

Eld. Geo. A. Irwin,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Dear Brother:-

There are a few little matters which I wish to write to you about at the present time. The first will give you a little idea of how the work is going. I will say that the school at Lintonia is increasing and we dont know what to do with it. There are now 166 scholars on the roll, and yesterday there were 118 in attendance. The average attendance is now over 110 every day. Every seat in the movable chapel is filled and the children have to sit on the steps of the pulpit, some of them. Something must be done before long, to either narrow down the school or give further room to accommodate the pupils who attend.

Our preaching services at different places are also receiving excellent attention. At Lintonia the chapel is filled every Sunday afternoon. The people seem deeply interested and give the best of attention. At Wilsonia, the suburb across the river, where Bro. Evans spoke when he was here, there came up a little difficulty and they endeavored to shut us out of the church. Of course we had no quarrel at such a time as that. They supposed they had accomplished their ends when they fixed it so that it was not pleasant for us to hold services in the church. But thanks to the facilities ^{afforded} ~~afforded~~ by our steamboat we were able to meet the situation fairly. We now bring our steamer Sunday morning up to Wilsonia and tie it up to the banks right opposite their church and hold services there every Sunday night. The attendance while we were preaching in the church had been growing smaller for some time, but with

the bringing up of the Morning Star, and the opening of the subject of the Second Coming of Christ and the Signs of the Times the people became much more deeply interested and they throng our chapel at every service. Every seat is taken up, people stand in as long as there is standing room and then they range each side on the guards and give the very best attention. So under the circumstances instead of this matter being a hindrance to the work it has been a great aid to it and has increased the interest there marvously.

Down at Palo Alto we go every Friday and hold meetings Friday night and night after the Sabbath. At this place the boat is crowded just as badly as it is at Wilsonia. Then about three miles further down is a church, called the Issaquena church, and here we have an audience ~~on~~ Wednesday nights of never less than 125. The people are more interested and earnest in listening to the truth than we have ever known them to be in this part of the country. What the final result can be we cannot tell, but we are trying to improve the opportunity as far as we can. We are being besieged to come to other places but we have all on our hands that we can attend to at present.

Now in the matter of finances for Bro. Rogers; I am a little surprised at the way the matter is being managed. Of course I received a credit for the \$78.00 that was advanced on his expenses coming to the field. There is one matter I think you forgot: when you wrote in your last letter you stated that there had been no other account given in in regard to his wages but just the \$78.00 which I mentioned at first. At first I simply said that I thought that the fare would be \$78.00, but after he came we found that it was a trifle over \$100.00. When you were here I stated that sum to you. You promised to report that sum to the Gen. Conf. Then when I was in Battle Creek just before ^{your} going to Gen. Conf., I called your attention to the fact and you looked up the memorandum and said there that you would report it \$100.00. This I supposed was all that was necessary to do in the case.

Now you say you have given instruction to Bro. Hoopes to send \$22.00 to make this up to \$100.00 but the \$22.00 does not come. In the meantime it is pretty close work with Bro. Rogers, and some of the rest of us in consequence. And altho Bro. Rogers has been here a little over four months not one dime has come to him from the Gen. Conf or any other source for his services. Now in your letter you mentioned the matter of the large attendance of the school. Now I will call your attention to the article in the last number of the Gospel Herald, in fact I will cut out the article and send it to you. We have had the worst winter for the colored people I think that has ever been known in the South, and it was all they could possibly do to get the plainest food to eat and fuel enough to keep them from freezing. We started our school right in this time. We talked the matter over quite carefully as to what we should do in regard to it. We felt that it would not do to keep children away from the school because their parents could not possibly raise money to pay their tuition, and so we were not particular the first three months of the school. And altho calls were made quite a number of times to pay up tuition the people simply said they would have to take their children out if they were crowded during that cold weather, and that we could not consent to for we did not think it was right. The result was that for the first three months of the school there was only \$32.00 collected all told, and this would not more than pay the running expenses outside of Bro. Rogers for his work. You see there were fuel bills to meet and other little expenses of the school, especially in the starting of it, that took up whatever funds that came in. Of course we expect that more will be collected for the future. But I have a statement from one of the Gen. Conf. officers that the Conf. voted to give Bro. Rogers \$10.00 a week, but I do not know whether he was mistaken or not, but if any vote of this kind was made it seems to me that it is about time that something of it was coming anyway. To be plain, Bro. Irwin I do not feel very well satisfied with the way the case of Bro. Rogers has been

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treated. And I will leave the matter right there. I will simply add that to wait until Bro. Allee comes this way will not meet the circumstances of the case. I have been in the field here over two years since he has been in connection with the field. I have never met the man, I don't know him when I see him and he has never seemed to have interest enough to come to our part of the field to look it over with us at all. I am not particularly sanguine as to his coming very soon in the future. So I beg of you not to leave any kind of arrangement in regard to Bro. Rogers' case until the time when Eld. Allee shall come here. Also ~~that~~ I happened to know that if there is \$22.00 coming to Bro. Rogers, he ought to have it and ought to have it right off.

I am glad for a great many things that was done at the Gen. Conf. and I hope that the coming year will show quite differently in many respects. I know that the work has been very difficult in the past and we have felt the results of this here very keenly at times. But I believe that the Lord is willing to bless us when we place ourselves in right relation to him, and that he will take hold and work with those who will follow his guidance, and that the work will not be hindered in the future as it has been in the past.

We are quite well here on the boat and all of us very busy.
Please give our regards to your wife,

Your brother in the work,

J. C. White